

REMARKS

The Office Action has required restriction, under 35 U.S.C. §121, to a single species of the invention. In making the restriction requirement, the Office Action alleges that there are patentably distinct species that include the following groups: a first embodiment (claims 1-8); a second embodiment (claims 9-15); a third embodiment (claims 16-23); and a fourth embodiment (claims 24-30). The Office Action requires Applicants to elect a single disclosed species.

Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that the Office Action has made an improper restriction requirement. Nevertheless, Applicants provisionally elect the first embodiment corresponding to claims 1-8.

As noted in M.P.E.P. § 806.04(e), claims are definitions of inventions, and are never species. Species are always the specifically different embodiments of the invention. M.P.E.P. § 806.04(e). The Office Action has not identified any portion of the specification or drawings that allegedly correspond to the different species. Instead, the Office Action alleged that the first embodiment includes claims 1-8, the second embodiment includes claims 9-15, the third embodiment includes claims 16-23, and the fourth embodiment includes 24-30. However, as already noted, claims are never species and the Office Action's designation of these claims as species is improper.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the restriction requirement, and the favorable examination of all the pending claims.

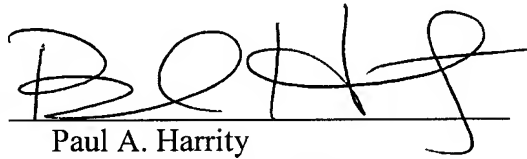
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Harrity & Snyder, L.L.P.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PAUL A. HARRITY", written over a horizontal line.

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